

Dear Commissioners:

Summary: Please deny Petition 04-160. This petition is blatantly anti-competitive and protectionist. Broadcasters have a responsibility to actively serve the public interest and should not receive protection from others who do. NAB members are seeking protection from a national satellite broadcaster who is providing localized weather and traffic information. Traffic and weather are public safety and economic issues. Therefore, all parties should be encouraged to improve their services in the public interest.

Comment: Both local (AM, FM, TV, Cable, Low Power) and satellite broadcasters (XM and Sirius) have a lot they can improve. With public safety information timeliness and accuracy are everything. I travel a great deal both by car and by air. It's nearly impossible to quickly find good weather and traffic info on a car radio when you are in a new city. Understanding it is even harder. I have used (XM) satellite radio and in two cases have found it better than wading through the local stations. Sometimes it works the other way. WBBM in Chicago, and KYW in Philadelphia are notable examples.

There are lots of opportunities for competition (competitive quality improvement) here. It will all be to the public benefit. I can think of lots of ideas to improve on both the terrestrial and extra-terrestrial side of this issue. Please encourage both sides to take responsibility and earn the right to have a broadcast license.

I sincerely thank the Commissioners,

Richard D. Burgan, WC8J

By the way? When will satellite broadcasters be required to carry EAS or an equivalent emergency notification service? I believe that EAS is required of all local broadcasters.